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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

## Youth innovations light the path to a greener future

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With unhygienic public toilets being a major problem in Dhaka, three young women have come up with an innovative solution to protect users, especially women, from health hazards such as infection transmission.

The team, named Neo Kagoj, has produced a tissue-paper-like product made from recycled paper, which can be used in public toilets and safely flushed afterwards due to its high water absorbency.

They have named the product "Hygie Guard".

For this idea, Neo Kagoj has won the top prize at the grand finale of the Climate Justice Idea Competition 2025, an initiative of The Daily Star and ActionAid Bangladesh.

The finale was held at The Daily Star Centre yesterday, where nine youth teams presented their ideas to address the

impacts of climate change, protect the environment, and improve lives.

The ideas included transforming waste into energy and purifying contaminated water in adverse situations such as salinity or floods.

The nine teams competed in three categories – Green Business, Water Rights, and Energy Transition.

Neo Kagoj won the top prize in the Green Business category.

Team Sustyre won the first runner-up prize in the same category for the idea of producing recyclable footwear soles from waste tyres to reduce wastage, while Econappy became second runner-up for

innovating biodegradable, pocket-friendly baby diapers.

In the Water Rights category, Projonmo bagged the top prize for developing an affordable water purifier. Aqua Rights was

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**Star, ActionAid Bangladesh host grand finale of Climate Justice Idea Competition**



Winners of the Climate Justice Idea Competition 2025, an initiative of The Daily Star and ActionAid Bangladesh, yesterday. The grand finale of the competition was held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital, where nine teams presented their ideas to address the impacts of climate change, protect the environment, and improve lives.

PHOTO: STAR

## Four more die of dengue, 247 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four dengue patients died, and 247 others were hospitalised across the country in 24 hours till yesterday morning, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

All four deaths were reported in areas under Dhaka South City Corporation.



With the latest figures, the total number of dengue deaths this year has reached 114, while the total number of cases has risen to 28,202.

Among them, 26,781 patients have been released from hospitals, including 20,647 from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 1,307 dengue patients are undergoing treatment in different hospitals across the country, 867 of whom are from outside the capital.

## Regional growth key to easing Dhaka's burden

Experts tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Climate change, unplanned urbanisation, river encroachment, pollution, excessive use of polythene, and severe traffic congestion are making life increasingly difficult in Dhaka, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They also stressed that nationwide sustainable development is essential to decentralise the capital and ensure its liveability.

The remarks were made at a focus group discussion titled "Decentralisation & Environmental Welfare of the Capital: Towards a Sustainable Dhaka", organised by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) at its auditorium in the capital.

Speakers emphasised that only coordinated efforts between the government, the private sector, and citizens can reduce pressure on Dhaka.

In his welcome remarks, DCCI President Taskeen Ahmed said,

### KEY ISSUES

- Over-centralisation of population in Dhaka
- Urban sprawl, housing shortages
- River encroachment, environmental degradation
- Poor waste management, sanitation
- Shortage of greenery, public spaces

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop surrounding towns as functional satellite cities
- Implement integrated urban planning, decentralisation
- Strengthen River Commission, enforce river protection
- Expand public transport, replace old buses
- Launch large-scale afforestation, greenery projects

"Dhaka contributes nearly 45 percent to the national GDP, yet according to a 2022 Buet study, traffic congestion alone causes an economic loss of Tk 140 crore worth of working hours daily."

He urged transforming surrounding areas into functional secondary cities for administrative and commercial activities.

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan noted that while population growth in Dhaka is difficult to control, decentralisation must go hand in hand with developing adjacent towns such as Savar, Narayanganj, and Gazipur into liveable cities.

"Despite the large number of housing projects in Dhaka, thousands of people remain homeless. Due to river erosion and other effects of climate change, many are forced to migrate to the capital in search of survival," she said.

She also stressed curbing polythene use, improving industrial compliance, and strengthening environmental

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## Bibhuranjan's autopsy finds no injury marks on body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

No external or internal injuries were found on the body of journalist Bibhuranjan Sarker, according to his autopsy report.

The postmortem was conducted yesterday at Munshiganj General Hospital, in the presence of police and family members.

Dr Sheikh Md Ehsan, residential medical officer of the hospital who conducted the autopsy, said, "The body was recovered from water and was in a slightly decomposed state. We did not find any signs of injury."

"However, samples of teeth, hair, liver, kidney, and parts of the stomach have been collected and preserved for forensic analysis in Dhaka. A final opinion can only be given after receiving the laboratory reports," he told reporters.

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## 'Will step down if asked to follow govt orders'

Says CEC AMM Nasir Uddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the Election Commission prepares for the next general elections, Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin yesterday said he will step down from his position if asked to act under government orders.

He made the remarks at a time when barely six months are left ahead of the upcoming 13th national parliamentary election, in line with the timeline announced by the Chief Adviser.

**For those who plan to seize polling centres or snatch ballot boxes, there is bad news. Their dreams will be shattered. This time, there is no scope to win the election through violence or capturing centres.**

"The day the government seeks to make me act according to its orders, I will no longer remain in this chair," he said at a views exchange meeting with election officials of the Rajshahi region at the Regional Public Administration Training Centre yesterday morning.

The CEC also issued a stern warning against any irregularities.

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Workers take to the streets after a garment factory in the capital's Tejgaon industrial area was shut down without notice. As a result, traffic came to a halt on Bir Uttam Mir Shawkat Sarak (Gulshan-Tejgaon link road) for a couple of hours around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Will form commission to ensure fairness in journalism: Khosru

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Standing Committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday said their party will form a commission to ensure free and transparent journalism if it returns to power.

"Journalism in Bangladesh was completely devastated during the fascist era. BNP's Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman has always been vocal in favour of independent journalism. A commission will be formed in the future to ensure press freedom," he said.

Speaking at a seminar titled "Journalism during fascist regime and present situation" at Dhaka Reporters Unity, he alleged that the Awami League destroyed journalism in Bangladesh during its regime.

Khosru mentioned that many journalists were forced to leave the country, as they could not survive in the hostile environment, while others abandoned the profession altogether. "I personally helped a few journalists go abroad since they could not sustain themselves here," he added.

Stressing the need for a clear division between management and editorial practices in media houses, the BNP leader said, "Just as the Hasina government destroyed the state by removing the dividing line between the judiciary, the Election Commission, and parliament, it also destroyed journalism by removing the dividing line

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## Man beaten to death in Noakhali; one held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Police yesterday arrested an electrician in Noakhali's Hatiya over the death of a man who was beaten to death on suspicion of theft on Thursday night.

The deceased was identified as Lokman Hossain, 28, of Chakpara village in Sherpur Sadar upazila. He had been working with a contractor of the Power Development Board (PDB) in Jahajmara union of Hatiya.

Quoting locals, AKM Azmol Huda, officer-in-charge (OC) of Hatiya Police Station, said Lokman and his colleague, Mostafizur Rahman, 28, also from Sherpur, had completed work on a power supply line and took around 160 kg of leftover materials at a scrap shop at Asad Nagar Trimohoni of Charrahia

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